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LANGUAGE German; Swedish

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated

FOREIGN PRESS DISCUSSES CZECH POLITICAL UNREST

SLING DEVIATION STRIKES CLOSE TO GOTTWALD -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt,
11 May 51

The purge of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, which first centered around Clementis, Svermova, and Sling, has now reached Pavel Eisler, who until recently was the right-hand man of President Gottwald. The main attention of the police, however, is directed against Sling. The very volume of attacks accusing his faction of constituting a danger to the rulers of Prague seems to indicate a widespread infection in the party.

It is significant that Sling is accused of apparently lesser crimes only now after his conviction of the crime of deviationism. These lesser crimes include terrorization of workers, misuse of the security police for removal of opponents, several murders including matricide, plotting murder, and other similar acts. It is possible that the accusation of conspiracy to assassinate Gottwald was made in order to round out the typical Eastern picture of the conspirator. As a matter of fact, Sling was known in Czechoslovakia as a terrorist. It is obvious, therefore, that the highest party leadership must also have been aware of his nature, but saw no necessity to interfere until Sling came under suspicion of using his revolutionary talents to stray from the party line.

Equally interesting is the fact that the role of Clementis is being pushed further into the background in direct proportion to the intensification of the propaganda campaign against Sling and the local tyrants of Brno, Ostrava, and Plzen. The reason for the emphasis on Sling cannot yet be determined. A possible explanation lies in the difficulty of concealing the connection between Gottwald and Sling if the latter were to be tried publicly. It is claimed that Gottwald's life has even been threatened by Sling.

It is equally impossible to determine whether the silence around Clementis has another explanation. The party leadership may consider Sling and his crime of deviation dangerous, but they may not want to increase general unrest in the country by concurrent trials of both groups. It is significant that the internal

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threat, represented by Sling, is considered more dangerous than the external one, represented by the traitor Clementis. The stand or fall of Communism depends on the existence of an inviolable hierarchy in the party; that is the dogma of the bureaucracy of the world revolution.

GOVERNMENT FORCES BATTLE PARTISANS IN TATRA MOUNTAINS -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 25 Feb 51

Vienna, 24 February -- The newspaper Neue Wiener Tageszeitung reports that violent battles between Czechoslovak government troops and partisans have taken place recently in the Tatra Mountains.

The newspaper, which is known for its intimate contact with the Slovak nationalist movement, reports further that a great new purge of Czechoslovak Communist officials is to be set into motion after the Sunday [27 February] celebration in Prague in commemoration of the Communist seizure of power in February 1948. Minister of the Interior Nosek is said to have received orders from the USSR to put an end to all "partisan and sabotage activity," by mid-March at the latest.

It is reported that on 19 January, government troops attacked partisan forces in the southeastern Tatras and routed them after a violent fight. On 28 January, government units attempted to surround the partisan headquarters, but this was foiled by the intervention of Polish and Ukrainian partisans. The newspaper reports still another rather large engagement on 4 February, during the course of which the partisans lost 160 men.

The great purge which has now been planned, according to the newspaper will finally include Prime Minister Zapotocky, Minister of the Interior Nosek, and Minister of Information Kopecky. Even President Gottwald's position is said to have been undermined. The newspaper says that the police have given strict orders that all photographs of the ministers on the purge list be taken down.

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